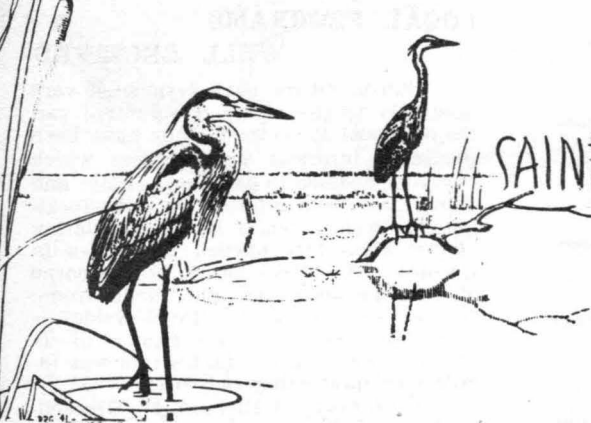




SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 16, No. 1

January-February 1947

INDOOR FIELD TRIP

At this time of year, when so few of us can get out of doors for field trips and personal encounters with birds and nature in general, this special program by Elizabeth Golterman and Marvin Beckman is really going to 'hit the spot'. On Friday, March 7, they will hold open house at the Division of Audio-Visual Education, 4466 Olive St. from 7:30 to 10:00 P.M. The wildlife collections of this division of the St. Louis educational system are among the finest in the midwest. This will be a rare opportunity not only to view them, but to learn from them. There will be a general meeting in the auditorium from 8:00 to 8:45; and before and after that time special individual programs and exhibits have been planned which will include motion pictures and film strips used in the St. Louis schools for bird study; kodachrome slides of natural science phenomena in the St. Louis region; and mounted specimens of native birds—an exhibition particularly useful for purposes of brushing up on field identification. In addition, as a special feature on this evening, Bird Club members will have the privilege of seeing displayed for the first time the outstanding collection of natural science books and photographic studies comprising the library of Miss L. R. Ernst.

Remember the time and place: Friday, March 7, 7:30-10:00 P.M. Division of Audio-Visual Education, 4466 Olive Street.

WHERE THE WEST BEGINS

Alfred M. Bailey's new color movie, titled 'Where the West Begins', will be the Bird Club's Screen Tour program on Friday evening February 21. Mr. Bailey of Denver director of the Colorado



ALFRED M. BAILEY

Museum of Natural History, has long been a favorite with St. Louis audiences. This will be his sixth appearance before the St. Louis Bird Club. In glowing natural color this new film shows the activities of museum naturalists through the Western seasons, starting with photography of dancing sharptail grouse on snow-covered prairies, and migrating hordes of wildfowl in early spring. Among the outdoor adventures shown will be exciting shots of fighting mountain sheep;

eagles on their nesting ledges; prairie dog towns with their burrowing owl and rattlesnake citizens; antelope on the prairies; and an autumn pack train trip into high mountains for rainbow trout. These are only a few of the colorful highlights of this outdoor picture.

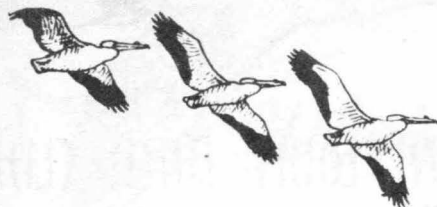
If you have a friend who has not attended one of the Screen Tour Programs a special pass may be obtained by contacting the Club's executive secretary.

SPRING BIRD WALKS

Inquiries have already been made as to plans for Forest Park Bird Walks. The answer is: Yes, we are planning to have them. Dates will probably be the last two Sundays in April, and the first two Sundays in May.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| February | 21— "Where the West Begins": Alfred M. Bailey of Denver |
| March | 31— "Lakelore": Howard L. Orians of Milwaukee |
| April | 22— "Field Guide to the Familiar": Roger Tory Peterson of New York |
- All Screen Tours at Soldan High School, 8:15 P. M.



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

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'THE EGG AND I ----'

While it now seems a long way off, the coal strike was a very real thing, on December 5, when Karl Maslowski presented his Screen Tour color movie "Saguaroland". Although the coal shortage prevented us from using Soldan High School auditorium we were saved through the kind assistance of the Third Baptist Church (which heats with oil). So that not only was the program held, but it was in a comfortable and convenient auditorium.

This was Mr. Maslowski's first appearance in St. Louis since his return from two and a half years in the Army Air Corps service. His films of bird and animal life in the saguaro country of Arizona made it clear how well populated the Western desert country really is; and his after dark observations were most unusual. But the adventure which made the biggest hit with his audience was the drama of the little ground squirrel trying so hard to get at the hard boiled egg, which was almost too much for him.

Mr. Maslowski was introduced by Club member Waldemar E. Palm.

LOCAL PROGRAMS

WELL RECEIVED

Club members have responded very favorably to the newly inaugurated series of 'Local Programs'. They have been pleasant, informal get-togethers which everyone seemed to genuinely enjoy; and which have been informative and educational as well. Leonard Hall's stimulating conservation talk opened the series in October. On November 25 Rev. George M. Link presented a 'homey' kodachrome film called 'Wildlife by the Wayside' — birds, flowers, mammals known to us all. As always Father Link's talk was instructive, interesting and witty.

On January 3 Richard P. Grossenheider exhibited a large number of his magnificent paintings and drawings of birds and mammals at Jefferson Memorial and presented a program on 'Adventures in Wildlife Painting', giving an account of some of his adventures in making these portraits. Dick is rapidly becoming known as one of the country's finest painters of birds and mammals. And on that evening Club members were able to see why.

A good turn-out of Club members accepted Mrs. Gertrude Drury's invitation to an open house meeting at the St. Louis Public Library on February 3, browsing through some of the interesting bird books there, enjoying the bird paintings on display and visiting with each other.

At this meeting Mrs. Drury featured books on foreign birds, which are of particular help for study of birds exhibited at the St. Louis Zoo; and also of interest to service men who have been overseas.

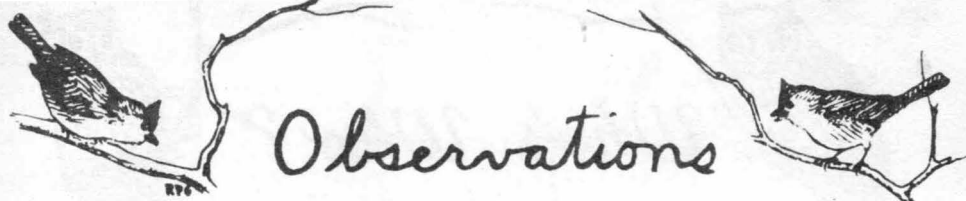
We are looking forward to another such browsing evening, perhaps in another year, which will feature still other groups of bird books from the Library's extensive collections.

ANIMALS UNAWARE

On Thursday January 16 Howard Cleaves of New York, who has specialized in black and white, after-dark pictures, presented his first all color film to a St. Louis Screen Tour audience. Myron Northrup presided; and Mr. Cleaves was introduced by Paul Bakewell, Jr. It is amazing, as one looks back upon all of the birds and wildlife portrayed, to recall that much of his wildlife film was made on Staten Island, which is part of New York City itself.

Olive. LOCAL PROGRAM

March 7—"Indoor Field Trip": Elizabeth Golterman-Marvin Beckmann. Div. Audio-Visual Educ., 4466 Olive St.
April 11—"A Look at Birds": Wayne Short. Academy of Science. 4642 Lindell.
May 19—ANNUAL MEETING. "Out-of-doors in New England": Carl W Buchheister. Brown Hall, Washington University.



BIRDS OF THE YEAR----1946

Bird of the year, for 1946: As usual when several outstanding finds occur, this presents a difficult problem of choice. We are inclined to give this honor to the avocet. A pair were seen during October by a group including: 'Bud' Barry, Arthur Christ, James Earl Comfort, David Dale, Susan Grumman, Mrs. Cordia Hanna, Mrs. O. C. K. Hutchinson, Dick Reichle, Jack Van Benthuyzen, Mrs. N. Waterbury. Later also by Beulah Bedell, Ellen Cone, Helen Einspanier, Lucy Elliott, Hattie Ettinger, Marion Freer, Helen Henke, Lonnie Laird, Kurt Wesseling, Ethel Wolfe. No doubt others saw them, too, for they were observed

from October 19 to October 27.

Certainly close contenders would be the evening grosbeak observed by Joan Henry on January 1, 1946, in Forest Park, and Shufeldt's junco, observed by Earl Comfort in May. Other fine birds of 1946 were the Western willet, Wilson's phalarope, sanderling, blue grosbeak, yellow-crowned night heron, and saw-whet owl. The saw-whet owl often fails completely to get on the year's list; yet some believe it may actually be of more frequent occurrence than we ordinarily suppose, because of the difficulty of getting to actually see or hear it.

Getting off to a good start for 1947 Al Kaszynski of Grafton observed Lapland Longspurs and Northern horned lark January 5, near Grafton. On January 12 in this same region he saw pine siskins. As this Bulletin goes to press these remain the best finds to date; and may well end up being the birds of the year for 1947.

...

The mild weather that lasted far into the winter seemed to be correlated with large concentrations of ducks in the St. Louis region. As many as 20,000 were reported in the vicinity of Pere Marquette State Park game refuge. These ducks made front page news stories when a controversy arose as to whether the deaths of some 200 of their number was due to starvation or to lead poisoning from having swallowed lead shot which became scattered around in their feeding areas after the hunting season opened.

Christmas bird counts were taken by several groups in the St. Louis area, in line with the annual Christmas bird census taken all over the country under the sponsorship of the National Audubon Society. Those who were out on December 29 had low temperatures and high wind velocity to contend with. On that date one census was taken in the St. Charles area, and another by our friends of the Alton section, whose census was centered around Brussels, Illinois. On the preceding day some of these same energetic people took a separate census at Michael, Illinois. And on December 22 the Webster Groves group took a census at Ranken, Missouri. These figures have been sent in to the National Audubon Society where they are recorded. While such a count may not seem important by itself, when looked at in comparison with similar counts taken all over the country it helps present the complete picture of what birds are where, at that time. And these correlated figures take on real significance when viewed over a period of years, in studying fluctuations and variations in bird populations.

Reminder — WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Contest closes April 1. Six prizes, three for adults, three for children under 16. First prize for adults, \$25.00. First prize for children, \$10.00. Open to all residents within 50 miles of St. Louis.



Who's Who?



Birder of the year was James Earl Comfort with a list of 228 species of birds observed in the St. Louis area during 1946. Only those who have kept accurate records and know how difficult it is to increase the list over and above the basic common birds of the region are aware of all the time, patience and ability it takes to achieve a list of this sort. Congratulations, Earl!

Jack Van Benthuyssen is second with 192. This figure takes special comment, too. Jack achieved this list after the first of July, at which time he returned from service. That means his list does not contain the spring birds, making the figure of 192 all the more remarkable.

Beulah Bedell is third, with 189. Hattie Ettinger and Richard Reichle tie for fourth place with 188; and Harry Comfort and Robert Knickmeyer tie for fifth place with 186. Then come: Mrs. Harry Comfort, 182 and Frances Pickel 172. Compared with the year's lists of most of us 'average citizens' all of these figures are something to talk about.

These are the top-ranking 1946 lists, so far as we know. BUT, we may not know about all. If your list of species is 172 or over, please drop us a line or phone.

EXHIBIT OF BIRD ART

If you have not already done so, be sure to stop in at the art room of the St. Louis Public Library, at 13th and Olive between now and the 28th of February, to see the original bird art displayed there. This exhibition of paintings by such renowned bird artists as Allan Brooks, R. Bruce Horsfall, E. L. Sawyer, is sponsored by the St. Louis Club, and is of unusual interest since this is one of the first time these paintings have been on public view. They are part of a group offered for sale by the National Audubon

The Club is going to miss Lt. Kitchen, who is off for army duty in Korea. Mrs. Kitchen will join him there in a few months.

...

Mrs. Joseph E. Vollmer is having a real bird vacation in the South. She enrolled for THREE of the Audubon Wildlife Tours: Bull's Island, South Carolina; Florida and Whitewater Bay; and Okeechobee.

...

Miss Alice Taake has presented the St. Louis Bird Club with a fine group of slides of bird subjects made by her sister, the late Daisy Taake, well known St. Louis artist. The slides are now on loan to the Division of Audio-Visual Education, where they will be used and enjoyed by children in the St. Louis public schools.

...

Jay Emerson and Freida Finney are the parents of Jacqueline Lee, born January 9. The Finneys are now living in Columbia, Missouri, where Emerson is attending the University.

Society. Funds derived from their sale are to be used to cover the cost of having some 300 other paintings framed and prepared for exhibition by bird clubs Audubon groups, and other such organizations all over the country. The first group prepared for exhibition were shown at no less a place than the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York last October. If you are interested in purchasing any of these paintings, please contact the Club's executive secretary, Mr. Heckler, at Central 0631.

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